

## OBITUARY

Malacologists here and abroad will be grieved to hear of the sudden death of well-known member, Mrs. Leone (Lee) Woolacott, wife of Ray, who died on Sunday, 4th August. Lee was one of the foremost amateur malacologists in Australia, with a remarkable knowledge of the eastern Australia marine forms in particular, gained by being an excellent field worker and collector, who loved to pack her haversack and tramp with husband Ray, a keen fisherman, to many out-of-the-way beaches and rocky reefs. Later she changed more to car trips, and had all arrangements made for an early visit to Bustard Heads, Queensland. She always planned trips well ahead down to the finest detail, and had a much wider expedition to Darwin and down the north-west coast planned which she and her husband intended to do, probably next year. Lee always kept field notes assiduously to accompany any collecting she did, and her collection at her home in Mosman was efficiently kept and recorded, example of her clear mind and methodical approach. She had reached the stage where she could do serious research on it, and several papers have appeared in recent years in publications of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, and a very interesting account of one of her many trips to Barrier Reef, in *Walkabout*, a few years ago.

Lee was for many years President of the Marine Section of the R.Z.S.N.S.W., during which time she inspired members with her enthusiasm and love of shells, and undoubtedly her term did much towards building the section to its present standard. A quite new and most noteworthy achievement was the innovation of a Juniors' and Beginners' Class, which she and her daughter, Mrs. P. Harford, formed jointly to teach the elements of Malacology, using specimens from her own collection as training aids. This was held one hour before the usual monthly shell night. Lee was an Honorary Correspondent of the Australian Museum and attended there regularly about once a week to assist in the shell department, where she was working on a revision of the bivalve collection with the writer until the latter was forced to retire owing to a severe illness; she then carried on her excellent assistance with Dr. McMichael. Everyone will greatly miss her charming, warm and helpful nature and her clear brain, which combined so vividly to give her the great love of life and living for which she was noted.

—Joyce Allan, F.R.Z.S.